Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (previously presented) An apparatus for taking up a succession of imbricated packaging bags carried by a pair of carrier tapes, said apparatus comprising:

a) two carrier tape winding spools positioned coaxially with one another; and

b) a differential gear unit positioned between said spools, said differential gear unit adapted to be, in use, removably connectable to a shaft of a bag loader whereby two carrier tapes can be wound up on said spools with equal tension.

2. (original) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said spools each have a recess in a surface which faces the other spool and wherein said differential gear unit is positioned in said recesses.

3. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein each of said spools is integrally formed with a bevel gear coaxial with said spool.

4. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said differential gear unit comprises a core and at least one pinion gear attached to said core and positioned to mesh with each bevel gear.

5. (currently amended) An apparatus according to claim 4 wherein said core comprises a mating hole for mating with [[a]] the shaft of a bag loader.

6. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said spools and differential gear unit are positioned in a cassette housing.

7. (previously presented) An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said differential gear unit is removably connectable to said shaft without the use of tools.

8. – 9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A method of loading a bag train on a bag loader, comprising:

a) providing a bag train incorporating a succession of imbricated packaging bags on two supply tapes from which they are to be removed during the loading operation, the supply tapes having lead ends equipped with two tape-winding spools with a differential gear unit ~~is~~ positioned coaxially between the spools;

b) removably connecting the differential gear unit to a shaft of said bag loader; and

c) driving said spools to wind up said tapes on said spools with equal tension to bring each of the imbricated bags successively to a loading position where each bag is loaded and separated from the tapes.